Demand, Consumption and production of Steel

599. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for steel, which was almost stagnant during the last two years, has started picking up, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th November, 1994;

(b) what was the consumption of finished steel as well as pig iron during the first half of the current financial year indicating increase in percentage;

c) what is the available stock of saleable steel with the producers as on 1st October, 1994, in million tonnes as against corresponding date last year;

(d) what was the total production of Pig iron during April to September, 1994, as against the production during the same period last year showing increase in percentage; and

(e) what steps Government have taken for reorientation of export strategy taking into account of this fast changing market scenario externally as well as needs for internal consumption in the country ensuring our products were quite competitive in world market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consumption of finished steel and pig iron during the first half of current financial year and the corresponding period of last year and percentage increase were as under:

('000 tonnes)

	April—Sept. '94	April—Sept. '93	% of increase
Finished steel	7591	6961	9%
Pig Iron	963	744	29%

(c) Stock of saleable steel available with Main Producers as on 1-10-94 was 1.033 million tonnes as against the stock of 1.356 million tonnes on 1-10-93.

(d) Total production of Pig Iron during April-September, 1994 and production during the same period last year and percentage increase was as under:

('000 tonnes)

April-Sept. '94	April-Sept. '93	% of increase
1214	974	25%

(e) To increase the country's exports, Government have taken various policy measures such as liberalisation of import-export poicy, flexibility of value based advance licensing scheme and convertibility of rupee on trade accounts. Export of all items of iron and steel is freely allowed. It is expected that export of steel from India will increase to 6 million tonnes by 2001-2002

Mini Steel Plants in the country

600. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of mini steel plants in the country;

(b) the total installed capacity of the mini steel plants;

(c) their production during the years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and so far in 1994;